THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 653 *Monday, Dec.* 29, 1823. *Price* 1*d.*

Drury Lane Theatre.

THE Comedy of *She Stoops to Conquer* preceded the new Pantomime and was pleasantly acted. The Pantomime here, is a proof of what the exertions of the Manager can effect. Drury was long in the shade as to scenic and pantomimic display; but this piece has retrieved its character for ingenuity, as others have already for splendour. It proved even more successful on Saturday than on the previous evening, as the whole was managed with increased dexterity. The Panorama of the *Plymouth Breakwater* is really a fine exhibition. The house was crowded.

Covent Garden Theatre.

AFTER the pleasing Opera of *Clari*, in which Miss M. TREE sang delightfully, and Miss LOVE obtained great applause, and Mr. FAWCETT was highly pathetic as the father, *Rolamo*, the humorous Farce of *The Irish Tutor* was acted with much effect, chiefly from the excellent personation of *Dr. O'Tool*, by Mr. CONNOR. We have only one thing to object to—the *dress* of Mr. Connor, which is too *neat*. A little of burlesque derangement would heighten the effect greatly.

The new Pantomime followed, to the great joy of the holiday-makers. Although people are not expected to be very critical at this time of the year, we shall remark, that we do not think the introduction to the Pantomime is so happy as that of many we have seen at this house. The *splendid* and *imposing*, it strikes us, are more adapted for this sort of thing than the *familiar*. The adventures of *Jack*—the *cat*—the *rat*—the *malt*—"the *cow* with the crumpled horn," and all the *characters* and incidents of this venerable story, fall under the latter description; and truth to say, we suspect some of *Jack's* old friends thought him somewhat of a dull personage in his new shape—*mais n'emporte*. The scenery, although in many instances extremely good, does not appear to us, taking altogether, to equal some former specimens which we have been presented with at this fountain-head of the art, with the exception, however, of one which we are coming to by and bye. The absence of the King of Clowns leaves a blank in our enjoyments of the piece: we have been for some time afflicted, in common, we have no doubt, with all persons

who have heads on their shoulders, and hearts in their breasts, at the cause of our old friend GRIMALDI's retirement. But he has abdicated the throne of *Fun*, and is succeeded by JOEY the Second, who, though a *young* disciple of Momus, possesses eminent qualities: he can knock his head against a post with double the force of his revered parent, and perform sundry feats of agility in an equally eminent style; but his *grin* is not so overpowering—his voice does not possess the same racy chuckle; and he neither sings nor eats oysters! Maugre all this, he is a worthy scion of the old stock, and has shown himself possessed of wit enough to play the fool well. Mr. ELLAR, as *Harlequin*, Mr. BARNES, as *Pantaloon*, Mrs. VEDY's *Colombine*, and Mr. DUCROW's *Lover*, are all good in their way. The tricks, on the whole, are tolerable, and some few original; but they do not work so well as usual. The most brilliant atchievement in the piece, is the journey from London to Paris, in a balloon. The aeronauts, (Clown and Pantaloon) set off from London, and the scenery then begins to be *drawn down*, and exhibits most beautiful bird's-eye views, with an effect, such as actually to make the audience imagine themselves high mounted in the air! The balloon appears to pass over the river Thames, and over Greenwich, till it gets above the channel and the straits of Dover; when night comes on, and it is lost for some time. It is next discovered passing over Paris, and finally descends in the Gardens of the Tuilleries, when the palace is beautifully illuminated. This far exceeds any thing of the kind we have ever seen, as a work of art, and will of itself make the Pantomime popular. It contains some other good things, but we have not room to mention them. The music is of the usual cast, spirited and appropriate. It was received on its second performance as before, with loud applause. The house was crowded.

ADELPHI.—This evening the Burlesque, called *The Quadrupeds; or, the Manager's Last Kick*, with the new Pantomime.

OLYMPIC.—This evening, *Love's Vagaries*, after which *I won't go!* and the new Pantomime, called *Harlequin's Christmas Box*.

The *Diorama* now exhibiting at Drury-lane Theatre, in the new Pantomime of *Harlequin and Flying Chest*, it is said, has cost (including the variagated lights and complicated machinery by which its effects are produced) the enormous sum of £1,380.

It is understood that the new play of *Kenilworth* will be produced at Drury-lane in a few days. The costume to be worn by Mrs. Bunn, in Queen Elizabeth, is, we hear, designed from drawings by Isaac Oliver, the Queen's own painter.—*British Press.*

☞ IT is respectfully suggested to our Friends to be careful, in going to the Theatre, not to be imposed on by an imitation of this Paper.

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Theatre Royal. Covent Garden.

This Evening, the Tragedy of

KING JOHN.

King John, Mr YOUNG,
Earl of Essex, Mr HORREBOW, Hubert, Mr BENNETT.
Earl of Salisbury, Mr CONNOR, Faulconbridge, Mr C. KEMBLE
Phillip, King of France, Mr EGERTON, Prince Arthur, Mr HOLL
Lewis, the Dauphin, Mr ABBOTT, Chatillion, Mr BAKER,
Cardinal Pandulph, Mr CHAPMAN, Citizens of Angiers, &c.
Lady Faulconbridge, Mrs PEARCE, Blanch of Castile, Miss FOOTE
Lady Constance, Mrs BARTLEY, Queen Elinor, Mrs VINING,

After which, a grand new Comic Pantomime, called

Harlequin & Poor Robin ;

Or, the House that Jack Built.

Scene 1.—Village & Water-Mill, by Sun-set—Jack's House Finished.
Jack, the Miller, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr ELLAR,
Gaffer Gandy, (afterwards Pantaloon) Mr BARNES, Giles, Mr MEARS,
Ralph, Mr HENRY, Hodge, Mr TINNEY, Ploughshare, Mr NORRIS,
Scene 2—*Perspective Landscape and surrounding Country*—Grieve.
Poor Robin, or Poor Sir Bob, (the Astrologer) Mr J. ISAACS,
Scene 3—The INSIDE OF JACK's HOUSE—W. Grieve.
The Rat—the Cat—the Dog—by Deputents.
Scene 4—The VILLAGE OF GANDERCLUE, by Sunrise..T. Grieve.
The Priest all Shaven and Shorn, (afterwards Clown) Mr J. S. GRIMALDI
Rosebud, the Maid all Forlorn, (afterwards Columbine) Mrs VEDY,
Squire Sap, (afterwards Dandy Lover) Mr DUCROW,
Cupid, the Messenger of Venus, Miss H. BODEN,
The Cock, Master Strut, The Cow, with the Crumpled Horn, by an Amateur
5—January—Hyde-Park and Constitution-Hill-Gates, on a Frosty Morning.
Scene 6—*St. James's Park and Canal,*
Buckingham House in the Distance—T. Grieve.—Patent SKATING.
Scene 7—MAY.—Kew Gardens on a May Morning—T. Grieve.
May Day Sports—Flora, Miss ROMER.
Scene 8—Outside of Barber's Shop—Hodgkins.
Abraham Att'all, Mr LOUIS, Mrs. Att'all, (his Wife) Miss RARNETT.
Scene 9—INSIDE OF BARBER's SHOP—Hodgine.
Clown's Patent Machinery to Shave by Steam.
Scene 10—July—Burlington Arcade at Night—W. Grieve.
Scene 11—*Outside of Sir Simon Simper's House*—Lappino.
Sir Simon, Mr Parsloe, Lady Simper, Mad. Fritzer, Miss Simper, Miss Shotter
Scene 12—Inside of Sir Simon Simper's House—W. Grieve.
13—September—*Vauxhall Bridge*—T. Grieve. 14—*Vauxhall Gardens* Grieve
Clown's Aeronautic Excursion from London to Paris.
Including the various Views from the English Metropolis, till his Arrival in the Thuilleries Gardens in France.—15 & 16—The Village of Bow, near London, (Pugh)—Leadenhall Market. (Pugh.)
Scene 17—NOVEMBER.—*Grand Civic Feast in Guildhall.*—(Pugh.)
18—Mathematical & Astronomical Instrument Maker's Shop—Luppino
19 & 20—December—Poor Old Robin's Hut—Temple of Iris—Grieve

To-morrow, The Cabinet.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Comedy of

Merchant of Venice,

Duke of Venice, Mr POWELL,
Bassanio, Mr ARCHER, Shylock, Mr KEAN,
Gratiano, Mr BROWNE, Launcelot Mr LISTON,
Portia, Mrs W. WEST, Nerisa, Mrs ORGER,
Jessica, Miss POVEY.

After which, a grand newComic Pantomime, called

Harlequin & the FlyingChest

Or, Malek, and the Princess Schirine.

The whole produced under the Direction of Mr W. BARRYMORE.

Lignum Vitæ, Mr MERCER, Quinco, Master WIELAND,
Mechanics. Tackpate. Mr RANDALL, Birch-switch, Mr D. SMITH,
Date-bones, Mr PLUMSTEAED, Pinikin. Mr HOPE, Fig-leaf, Mr Foster
Ceder-skull, Mr YARNOLD, Sun-florio, Mr KENCH, Tulippi, Mr YARDLEY
Willow-trunk, Mr GIBBON, Holly-hock, Mr SUTTON,
Lily-white, Mr BRADY, Rosetto, Mr COLSON,
Malek, (a decayed Nobleman, afterwards Harlequin) Mr HOWELL,
Bahaman, (afterwards Pantaloon) Mr T. BLANCHARD,
Aboodlefattywachy, (afterwards Clown) Seignior PAULO,
Schirine, (afterwards Columbine) Miss SMITH,
Page, (with a Ballad) Master Edmonds, Mamapeaka, Mr Turnour
The Afriete Niger, (the Infidel Genius) Mr WEBSTER,

The following is the Order of the Scenery.

Scene 1:—The Silver Ciput or Grove in the Forest of Ganza, (Stanfield) 2.—Splendid Palace of the 100 Gates. [Marinari] 3.—Boudoir of the Princess Schirine. [Do] 4—Bridge & Distant Landscape over the Hindus. [Roberts] 5 Village & Market-Cross. [Do] 6.—Post Office Yard. [Marinari] 7.—Cottage & Corn Fields. [Roberts] 8.—Fonthill Abbey and Grounds. [Do] 9.—King Edward's Gallery at Fonthill. [Do] 10.—Nursery Grounds in the Vicinity of London. [do] 11:—Oil & Cutler's Shops. [do] 12.—The Diorama. The Plymouth Breakwater. Commencing with The Quarries at Oreston—The Catwater and Entrance to Hooe, Men of War at Anchor in Plymouth Sound, The Breakwater, Vessel in Distress off the Mew Stone—Effects of a Storm, An Indiaman on Shore, near Ramhead, concluding with a General View of Plymouth, with Mount Batten from Turn Chapel. 13—The Northern Region, by Moonlight. [Stanfield] 14.—Grand Military Review in Hyde Park. [Stanfield & Andrews] 15.—Powder Blue and Storch Manufactory. [Roberts & Adams] 16.—Area of Nobleman's House. [Hollogan & Read] 17.—Grotto of Chrystals. [Roberts] 18.—The Paradise of Zephyr and Flora. [Marinari]

To-morrow, Guy Mannering, with the Pantomime.